

**Stone, Robert J.**

To: Powers, David M.  
Cc: Lester, Frank G.; Matthew Tilley; Nelson, Byron (WKA); Stone, Robert J.  
Subject: Connecticut; Massachusetts; & Rhode Island week of 5/1/98

Rhode Island-The lobby team reports today that both the advertising/billboard bill & the restaurant smoking ban bill are tied-up in committee and should die there as the legislative session ends.

Connecticut-The ordinance sub-committee of the Bridgeport City Council discussed the mayor's proposed ordinance and four of the five said they had heard from their constituents opposing the measure. They sent the ordinances to the full City Council without a recommendation and requested a Public Hearing on 5/19; after the hearing the matter will be referred back to the ordinance sub-committee for the same fate as in New Haven. We would request that retailers and wholesalers attend the hearing in Bridgeport on 5/19 and Orange on 5/13 to testify; we will contact Mark(DM) and our coalition partners to increase attendance and support. Mr. Brendan Kennedy & I are planning a meeting with CT. Wholesalers before these hearings to occur on 5/7/98. We intend to request support from these important partners to assist with contacts to the congressional delegation to defeat the McCain bill and the FET.

Massachusetts-Industry meeting with key partisans on AG rules proposal was held on Wed., 4/29; key players will seek a meeting with AG to explain to him that he has gone too far with his Ch. 93A rules before the public hearings on 5/20 & 5/21. Partisans will meet to discuss final strategy before the meeting with the AG. Public Relations strategy will key on 93A procedure not tobacco. If the AG persists, partisans will be prepared with arguments and media-trained for the hearings. We have requested a separate strategy outlined in another memo for your approval.

Massachusetts local...

Dedham-Once again, our Town Meeting representatives killed a 100% smoking ban article by postponing it indefinitely.

Arlington-Representative Town Meeting did not get to article #20 on Mon., 4/27 but will get to it on Wed., 4/29 and the Board of Selectmen will request that they pass-over the article per several conversations with the Town Counsel after he received the letter from Attorney Vance.

Worcester-The healthcare sub-committee of the City Council did discuss the 100% restaurant smoking ban on 4/27. Twelve restaurant owners spoke against the ordinance and the "big guns" including Mark Bolton, Dr. Siegel, and D.J. Wilson were there to promote the issue. No action was taken but the group may meet to discuss the issue again as early as 5/11.

Best Regards,  
Bob